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IS EMLL ABOUT TO COLLAPSE? Will AAA be only office left by 1/1/93?

Where do I start? I was all set to mail this issue (albeit a little late) on Friday, October 2nd, 1992, when I became aware of a growing crisis within the offices of the EMLL, Mexico's oldest and largest wrestling office.

Therefore, I trashed what I had written throughout much of this issue (in particular, about how through the auspices of the SNL union that the EMLL and the UWA would be more closely working together and share talent, though not merge offices) and changed any references to the same throughout the issue.

Here is what is going on. The AAA is killing the other two promotions in the war amongst the major wrestling promotions. The WWA, Mexico's fourth-largest (of four) national wrestling promotions, has according to sources completely offered to bury the hatchet in its "differences" with the AAA and wants to co-promote with the AAA throughout the traditional WWA territories along the northern border of Mexico. The third-largest promotion, the UWA, has been described by sources as "essentially dead." To me, "essentially raped" might be a better description as the AAA (and in rare cases the EMLL) has stripped the UWA of virtually 90% of its best workers that the UWA was booking just as of six months ago (though now the UWA and EMLL will trade some talent so this helps the UWA).

That leaves us with the two largest promotions, the AAA and the EMLL. Not coincidentally, these are the two promotions with national television slots of Mexico's largest television network (Televisa) stations. The AAA has tried to raid the EMLL of its best workers, too, but has as of yet not destroyed the talent base. But somehow, the perception has gotten across in Mexico City that the AAA is the major league now and that the EMLL is the minor league. The EMLL had a VERY successful tour of la Arena Mexico in June and July, selling out almost every Friday night. They then went to la Arena Coliseo for six weeks; that arena, at only 5,500 seats, is an easy sellout with the kind of name talent the EMLL still has left, even though the EMLL was running the same arena three times in less than 100 hours every week. But for whatever reason, the EMLL's return for its big fall tour of la Arena Mexico has been a disaster. Many Friday nights have been drawing only 7,000 paid fans in an 17,100 seat arena, and Sunday crowds have been down around 5,000 (though Sundays are harder to gauge because the EMLL also runs two shows DIRECTLY IN COMPETITION WITH ITSELF on Sundays at la Arena Coliseo and l Pista Arena Revolucion).

Now, ex-wrestler Dan Denton, a writer for The Mexico City News, published an article alleging a practice that I interpreted to mean embezzlement among the front-office bookkeeping employees was being investigated. He further claimed that some wrestlers were willing to go on the record and say that better pushes and positions on the card could be - and had been - purchased from the front office. He also claimed, in a fascinating but more minor charge, that many wrestling magazine and newspaper sections essentially sold coverage to the highest bidder (that charge would itself not do any irreparable harm to the business, nor the media, but the first two would). At the end of his article, Denton claimed that one or more wrestlers had even hinted at the office's possible closing down, describing things as "week-to-week here." I doubt that - the EMLL has rent-free la Arena Mexico booked until 12/11.

In an interview in Ovaciones, one not directly responding to any of this but of interesting timing, published October 2nd, 1992, AAA head Antonio H. Pena basically told the reporter how surprised he (Pena) was to have had so many people jump to the AAA and that there were literally more wrestlers working for them than he had an opportunity to book (in large part because so many arenas are locked up contractually to the EMLL and the SNL and therefore the immediate revenue to fund 150+ wrestlers just isn't there yet). Pena further went to say that he was bringing in los Exoticos and "The Jewels" (see AAA news) but that was pretty much it; there's no room to push more.

Basically, how has the AAA gotten ahead so far so fast? Briefly, here's how I see it. First, Pena is starting fresh. He offered people pushes they did not get in the past (since the UWA strictly pushed a small cadre of 10-12 workers and NOBODY else while the EMLL we now learned in some cases charged for pushes). Secondly, many wrestlers were clearly anxious to leave a union that has been openly called in numerous sources corrupt, and go to a union run more by wrestlers than suits. Third, the AAA had the better television slots, and we know the value of exposure. All of these factors, plus undoubtedly the eventual prospect of a higher income, adds up to all the wrestlers' jumping.

AAA RESULTS

Wednesday, September 9th, 1992, began a fall-long series of Wednesday night cards promoted at the Mexico City-area gymnasium called "el Deportivo Plan Sexenal" promoted by Raul Reyes. To baptize the arena, so to speak, big guns were brought in for the first card. Octagon, el Hijo del Santo, and el Angel Azteca defeated Fuerza Guerrera, el Espanto junior, and The Blue Panther two falls to one when Octagon pinned Panther with the small package (*la enredadera*). I'll bet it was a super match, too. In the semifinal, Winners and Super Calo emerged victorious in three falls over Mister Condor and Psicosis. Minis el Angelito Azteca and el Voladorcito defeated Fuerzita Guerrera and la Parquita in the second match in three falls, while the opener went to Kick Boxer and el Inmortal, as they defeated los Hermanos Maldad (Doctor Maldad and Mister Maldad) two falls to one.

The opening match of the show taped Friday, September 11th, 1992, at el Auditorio Municipal in Veracruz, Veracruz, which was off of television, turned into a tecnico victory as el Halcon 78, el Falcon, and el Super Halcon defeated el Nuevo Angel Blanco, el Hijo del Angel Blanco, and Ricky Boy two falls to one.

The other result is from that same September 11th, 1992, from el Auditorio General Jose Maria Arteaga in Queretaro, Queretaro. In the opening match, local tecnicos Panchito Robles and Condorman defeated Orion and el Indio Nakoma two falls to one. In the second match, los Micros luchadores took over. Once again, the tecnicos won. Micro Konnan el Barbaro, Micro el Volador, and Micro el Misterioso defeated los Miscos Destructores del Ring (el Pequeno Goliath, el Gran Nikolay, and Leon, el Salvaje) in three falls. The AAA debut of los Tortuguillos Karatekas I, II, and III (as they are now billed; their other ring names are Rafael -- he used to wrestle as Danny Boy and I expect him to lose his mask soon -- Leonardo and Miguel Angel). The little ninja turtles lost in three falls to Super Brazo, el Brazo de Platino, and Atila junior. By the way, for the Gary Zimaks among us who asked, the seventh wrestling Brazo brother to whom I referred but did not identify two weeks ago wrestles under the ring name "Shadito Cruz junior." In the semifinal of this Queretaro card, Super Astro teamed with el Volador and el Fantasma to defeat Ice Killer, el Indomito, and Rocco Valente two falls to one. The finish of the third fall saw el Indomito disqualified for removing the mask of first el Fantasma and then, totally, of el Volador. The main event went to el Angel Azteca, el Hijo de Tinieblas, and Tinieblas, as they won two out of three falls from Cien Caras, The Blue Panther, and el Angel Blanco junior. The little Ewok-like mascot of los Tinieblas, Alushe, did a diving body drop from the second rope onto el Angel Blanco junior between falls and got a huge pop. I was surprised by the result of the main event, as the heels are the bigger names by far.

Raul Reyes promoted a show Saturday, September 12th, 1992, at el Gimnasio G-2 just outside Mexico City. In the main event, Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo and el Solar I defeated Jerry "el Puma" Estrada and el Coabride Segundo two falls to one when Aguayo made Estrada submit to a leg lock. Estrada replaced the no-showing union vice-president The Ice Killer, who was ripped in the magazines for his no-showing.

Reyes then promoted a show at la Arena Azteca just outside Mexico City on Sunday, September 13th, 1992, and in the main event, Super Astro and el Hijo de Lizmark defeated el Espanto junior and Rambo in three falls when Astro pinned Rambo clean in the middle in the third fall.

The card at el Centro Civico at Ecatepec, Mexico, on Tuesday, September 15th, 1992, that took the place of the supposed 9/18 Palacio de los Deportes show was headlined by a rudo victory! Cien Caras and Fishman defeated Konnan el Barbaro and Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo two falls to one when Aguayo fouled Caras in the third fall for the automatic disqualification (and the fans loved it). In the semifinal, la Trio Fantasia (Super Muneco, Super Raton, and Super Pinochio) defeated el Trio del Muerte (el Hijo del Espanto, la Parca, and Karis la Momia) two falls to one. The magazine Titanes del Ring printed a picture of Super Pinochio's ripping off la Parca's mask, revealing him to be ex-el Principe Island, and then the magazine went on to say "hey, weren't you Principe Island?" How cheap.

Quickly, here are my thoughts on the big Acapulco show from 9/18/92. In the off television match, el Perrito Aguayo made his debut, teaming with Octagoncito and la Mascarita Sgarada to defeat Jerrito Estrada, la Parquita, and el Picudito in three falls. The next match went to Octagon, Super Astro, and el Hijo del Santo as they won two out of three from el Hijo del Diablo, Fuerza Guerrera, and The Blue Panther when Astro pinned Panther with the reverse diving head butt in the third fall. Fans were into this heavy, but not as good as I expected. I really thought el Hijo del Diablo was out of his league here. ***. The third match saw Martha Villabos pin la Briosa with a splash from off of the second rope in the third fall in 15:32 to win a mask versus hair match. Not very good. La Briosa was revealed to be Sara Oliva Alvarez Gallegos, age 30, daughter of Sugi Sito, and with 14 years in the ring. * 1/4. I especially resented el Tirantes' stealing heat away from the finish with his histrionics. The semifinal went to Tinieblas senior (accompanied by Alushe), Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo, and Konnan el Barbaro in three falls in only 9:27 over Cien Caras, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, and Jerry "el Puma" Estrada when Aguayo got a DQ win by faking a foul. Alushe did "the dive of the week," as splash from off of the second rope onto Estrada. Fair at best. ** 1/4. Actually, Mascara

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Ano Dos Mil should have been suspended in my opinion. He grabbed a big bucket that the vendors fill with ice and water and place Pepsis in to take around the arena and sell. Well, Dos Mil got this bucket filled with water at the end of the first fall and threw it onto Aguayo, drenching him. Aguayo could have had a heart attack! Here he was all sweaty with a temperature of 100 degrees plus and here Dos Mil comes and throws 32 degree water on him. It's a wonder Aguayo did not go into shock. He didn't get back into action for several minutes. That was so scary. The main event was a REALLY good match. Lizmark ~~padre~~ defeated Universo Ano Dos Mil two falls to one to win the Mexican National Light Heavyweight Championship. I still feel that this is a belt "below" Lizmark, in the way that the WWF Intercontinental Championship would be "below" Ric Flair. The match went three falls and 16:38. Universo pinned Lizmark at 5:57 of round one with a diving body press. Lizmark got a disqualification win due to Cien Caras's outside interference at 4:34 of the second fall. And the third fall ended at 6:19 with a textbook missile kick (drop kick from off of the top rope) then a power bomb pinfall by Lizmark. A huge pop for the hometown victory too. A really great match, with nice moves, holds, dives, etc., and a beautiful finish. ****.

On to the next week's television. This is the show that aired last weekend - Sunday, October 4th, 1992 - on Galavision. It was taped at el Auditorio General Jose Maria Arteaga in Queretaro, Queretaro. The initial match was off of television. The Creature Feature Team of Atila junior, el Reptil, and captain Marabunta face el Giro, el Colorado, and captain Super Atomo. By the way, on Guadalajara television, el Brazo de Plata clearly admitted in an interview that Super Atomo was in fact his younger brother Aaron who used to be Robin Hood. The next match at the arena began the television show. Winners, Super Calo, and captain Mister Magneto (in his debut) defeated Heavy Metal (Erick Casas), el Psicosis, and captain el Picudo two falls to one in a total elapsed time of only 10:40. Super Calo took the first fall in 6:13 with a diving body press *on reversa* at 6:13. El Picudo pinned Magneto at 2:35 of the second with the back breaker. In the third fall, Psicosis deliberately went to an unmasking of Super Calo at 2:02 for a very VERY cheap finish. The match was good but not that good. These guys are capable of better. I almost sense that Winners and Super Calo have become caricatures of themselves. Heavy Metal and el Psicosis were fine but I have seen them both look better. Despite my hopes, this match really never clicked. ** 2/3. The third match saw another cheap finish, but this time with a purpose (and one that worked). El Misterioso, el Rey Misterio junior, and captain el Volador defeated los Nuevos Destruyores del Ring (Rocco Valente, his brother Tony Arce, and captain el Vulcano) two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 16:19. All three rudos (Destruyores) made el Misterioso submit to a headstand wishbone at 4:14 of the first fall, but el Misterioso came back to pin el Vulcano at 4:25 of fall two with a *tope on reversa* from off of the top rope. At the finish of the second fall, el Rey Misterio junior did a dropkick THROUGH the second and third ropes. Now that's psycho. The rudos were disqualified at 7:40 of fall three for shoving heel referee el Tirantes out of the ring - this finish led to a *revanche on superliere* for the next week, which makes a lot of sense for these two teams who are basically in a program with each other. Real good, especially from el Volador. ***. The semifinal went to el Hijo de Lizmark, el Hijo de Tinieblas, and captain Super Astro, as they took two out of three falls in 17:50 from Jerry "el Puma" Estrada, el Angel Blanco junior, and captain The Ice Killer. The first fall went 8:42 before Tinieblas junior made Estrada submit to the *el rudo*. Panther made Astro submit to the regular old abdominal stretch in 3:35 of the second. The third fall went 5:33 before Astro pinned Panther with a poor *lutacatana*. I guess everyone has picked up how down I am on Super Astro since his AAA debut. Hey, I love the guy's spots (all three of them). But to me he is SO MUCH slower and bigger (fatter and more bulked up, if you see what I mean) and he's just missing a spark. Maybe it's his 18-plus years in the ring - that will add up on anybody, even a 31-year-old. I gave this match ** 1/2; I thought they overdid the mask pulling and the tilt-a-whirl backbreakers (*las quebradoras*) as well. The main event was, to me, the same old stuff. Lizmark senior, el Hijo del Santo, and Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo lost to Mascara Ano Dos Mil, el Espanto junior, and captain Fishman two falls to none in a total elapsed time of 20:01. Aguayo unmasked Dos Mil at 11:50 of fall one and then was pinned by Fishman at 8:11 of round two after a stiff chair shot (stiff for Mexico, not for Japan). Now I actually thought this was the show's best match but please, guys, put some new guys/scenarios (no all-brawl) on top. ***.

The last AAA result for this issue is from the television taping held Friday, October 2nd, 1992, at el Auditorio Municipal in Tlaxcala, Coahuila. It will air on Galavision on Sunday, October 11th, 1992. From my reports, the first hour of this show may be the single most spectacular hour of lucha libre ever shown on Galavision. The first match was off of television, as per usual; Atila junior and el Angel Mortal face los Matematicos III and IV in that match. Also, here is the latest AAA "Cartometro del Ring." The number one tecnico for the third straight week was Lizmark senior. The top rudo this week was Fishman (Martha "la Aplandora" Villalobos and Jerry "el Puma" Estrada had won the previous two weeks). The top trio was el Volador, el Misterioso, and el Rey Misterio junior, after two straight weeks of the winners' being Mexican National Trios Champions los Hermanos Dinamita (Cien Caras, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, and Universo Ano Dos Mil). Top News of the week was Super Astro's pinning The Blue Panther (la Brisa's losing her mask and la Venus injuring her shoulder had won the last two weeks). The dive of the week winner this week

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was el Rey Misterio junior for his dropkick THROUGH the ropes. The week before, Alushe's *plancha* from off of the second rope corner turnbuckle onto Jerry Estrada won; the week prior, a series of dives by el Misterioso and Tony Arce won. Finally, the top *pareja* (duo) this past week was Winners and Super Calo; the prior two weeks that award had gone to Konnan el Barbaro and Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo.

NOW, on to the matches. The first match saw the debut of the AAA's answer to the EMLL trio "The Metals." These are "The Jewels." Their ring names are Zafiro, Diamante, and captain Brillante. They aren't rookies but have amassed, according to Super Luchas, quite a reputation in the northern-Mexico circuits (just like Pimpinela Escarlata and May Flowers did one year ago). You'll see what I mean when you see the television how closely they ape "The Metals." The Jewels debuted in defeat, however, losing to the exotic trio of The Rose, May Flowers, and captain Rudy "Perfumado" Reyna two falls to one in a total elapsed time of well over 13:00. The first fall went to the three young tecnicos, as they won via triple count out of the ring over the exotic rudos when a Three-Stooges-like leapfrog sequence suddenly turned into spectacular triple simultaneos *planchas* outside the ring at 8:56. I don't have a time for the second fall, but I do know that Flowers pinned Brillante with a suplex and then The Rose did "The Rose Dive," where he gets up to the top rope, fakes like he's going to do a diving body press halfway across the ring, then he alights and just does the cutest little splash ... oh, never mind. The third fall went 4:04 before the veteran Flowers made the young Diamante submit to the infamous *la de a caballo*. The best dive was at the end of the third fall. Brillante did a running dive *a la la Fiera* over the top rope without touching the rope, but then did the Lyger flip. He was aiming for The Rose, but Brillante missed and crashed back-first into the ring barrier, destroying the barrier. My reports loved this SPECTACULAR match and it gets *** 1/4. Pimpinela Escarlata was supposed to join Flowers and Reyna in jumping from the UWA to the AAA for this match, but decided one day prior to stay with the UWA for now.

The second match on television was said to be even more spectacular than the first. In the rematch from the prior week, el Rey Misterio junior, el Volador, and captain el Misterioso defeated los Nuevos Destruyores del Ring (el Vulcano, Tony Arce, and captain Rocco Valente) two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 21:10. The first fall went 7:27 before el Volador was counted out of the ring and then el Misterioso submitted to triple-team rudo kicking. The second fall lasted 5:10 before all three tecnicos did unbelievably spectacular dives onto los Destruyores - so spectacular that these dives were better than all in the first match!. The third fall lasted 8:33 until Valente was disqualified for unmasking el Rey Misterio junior; while ripping at junior's mask, Valente cut junior and junior bled a little bit. There were even more dives in the third fall including yet another dive of the year candidate by el Rey Misterio junior. Rated at **** and said to be a not-to-be-missed match under any circumstances.

The semifinal was naturally a letdown, as they simply could not follow the first two matches. El Panterita del Ring returned to AAA television, teaming with el Solar I and captain Super Astro to defeat The Ice Killer, Jerry "el Puma" Estrada, and captain The Blue Panther two straight lengthy falls in a total elapsed time of 21:26. Super Astro pinned The Blue Panther with *el tope en reversa* to end the first fall in 9:50. The second fall lasted 11:36 before el Solar I pinned The Ice Killer with a reverse kick while el Panterita del Ring pinned Estrada with the diving body press. Astro did his best spot, the dropkick/over-the-top-rope headfirst-dive spot and was said to have looked good tonight. Astro challenged Panther again after the match, but in an oddity, they introduced Astro before the match as "el *campeon semicompleto*," and I have no idea what light-heavyweight championship he has won. Overall, this match was said to have been a bit of a disappointment. Rated at ** 3/4.

The main event apparently ended when the television time expired (Oh no Alfonso we gotta go!). The tecnico trio was comprised of Lizmark senior, Konnan el Barbaro, and Pedro "el Perro" Aguayo (what, you were expecting maybe somebody else on top) and the rudo trio was comprised of Cien Caras, Mascara Ano Dos Mil, and captain Fishman. This league is winning the war right now but if they keep running the same guys on top they'll run them right into the ground and destroy their houses I guarantee you. This could be a Pyrrhic victory for the AAA if how they win it costs them Aguayo, Konnan, etc., at the houses because the fans are sick of seeing them or, have seen everything they can do. Anyway, the first fall went only 1:22 before Fishman pinned Aguayo after a blind foul. The second fall apparently ended when Konnan el Barbaro pinned Cien Caras. Now, Caras had his foot on the ropes and the referee saw this but counted the fall anyway. Caras got up to complain, the television went to a commercial, and when they came back they joined right up with the kickoff of an NFL game. Perhaps they explained some sort of a finish in Spanish and we can listen this week or maybe they just ran out of time. Due to great possibility that we did not see the whole match, this isn't rated. By the way, I expect the "foot on the ropes/restart" argument is a poke at the EMLL's finish for its el Dandy versus el Satanico match from the 59th anniversary show. Somehow when the old union was raising its arguments ginst the broadcast of luch ibre on Mexican television (most of which were solid rationales) they really seemed to me to be most fearful of new "characters" getting over at the expense of older veterans. I bet they never expected the biggest misue of TV to be the constant over-pushing of the veterans on top.

EMLL **RESULTS**

The latest results in the rapidly-shrinking EMLL are from this past Sunday, October 4th, 1992, at la Arena Mexico. El Pirata Morgan finally got his chance at the CMLL World Light Heavyweight Championship held by arch-rival Pierroth junior. Morgan was successful in the first fall, making Pierroth junior submit to the figure-four leglock. Pierroth junior came back in the second fall and made Morgan submit to the boston crab – the hold Morgan is using as "his" finisher these days. The third fall went back and forth until Morgan tried to apply the *la de a caballo* (camel clutch) onto Pierroth, and Pierroth flipped over into a *rana* for the pinfall victory to retain his title. The semifini went to King Haku, el Jalisco, and el Rayo de Jalisco junior, as they won two out of three falls from M. S. 1, el Titan, and Ulises Plus. In the *tercera*, Javier "el CHamaco" Valaguez, la Aguila Solitaria, and la Sombra Poblana defeated el Halcon Negro junior, Ponzona, and Cesar Dntes two falls to one. The second match of the evening was won by tecnicos el Astro Rey and la Aguila de Plata, as they won two of three from el Bufalo Salvaje and el Cortado. To open the card, Eclipse and el Pegaso were victorious in three falls over los Caifanes I and II.

Forty-five hours prior to the above card, the EMLL had its weekly television taping at la Arena Mexico on Friday, October 2nd. The opening match was off of television, as el Vencedor and el Metalico met el Guerrero de la Muerte and el Archangel de la Muerte. The second match of the card began the television show. Shogun debuted on television as he teamed with Kato Kung Lee senior to defeat Kung Fu and Javier "el Monarca" Cruz two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 12:39. The finish of the third fall saw Lee pin Cruz as he dropped Cruz backwards after Cruz had gotten onto Lee's shoulders to attempt a *rana*. Correspondent Dave Scherer gave this ** 1/4 and Roy Lucier gave it 1/4*. The *tercera* would be a main event in an arena in Mexico. The EMLL's MVPs, los Mosqueteros del Diablo – los Brazos (el Brazo de Plata, el Brazo, and captain el Brazo de Oro) defeated the brand-new CMLL World Trios Champions los Nuevos Infernales (el Satanico, M. S. 1, and captain el Pirata Morgan) two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 16:40. El Brazo de Plata pinned el Pirata Morgan with the Martha Villalobos-like falling sideways splash to win the third fall for his team. They did the most-over Brazos spot where almost everyone did a dive outside the ring in sequence, ending as per usual with a very nice *topo suicide* by el Brazo de Plata onto the other five. Dave gave this *** 1/2 and Roy gave it *** 7/8. The semifinal went to Atlantis, The Love Machine, and captain la Mano Negra as they won two out of three falls from la Fiera, la Bestia Salvaje, and captain el Supremo I in a very short 9:41. Everyone assumed the finish would involve Supremo and Mano Negra as they are nearly ready to have their mask match, but the finish came when la Fiera pulled out a chain from a towel he had left in the corner before the match and brutally attacked The Love Machine to set up a feud between those two. I can see the promotion offering The Love Machine a big hair match win to help keep him in the promotion. Roy gave this * and Dave ** 3/4 for the story line. The main event made it four straight for the tecnicos, as King Haku, Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon, and captain Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense defeated Pierroth junior, Jose "el Negro" Casas, and captain The Black Magic in two straight falls in 14:54. Vampiro pinned Pierroth with a power slam to end the second fall and the match. During the match, the rudos would clearly not trust Vampiro. Most of us have seen the spots in the ring where a wrestler will get his opponent in a "wear-down" hold, then a member of the opposing team will get in and kick the opponent to make him release the hold, and then follow that up by getting his opponent in a new "wear-down" hold. Well, in this match, each time Pierroth junior would get a tecnico in a "wear-down" hold, either Casas or Magic would get in the ring and kick Pierroth! This was great comedy and a nice set of spots. After the match was over, Magic turned on Pierroth and started pounding Pierroth mercilessly, but the faces returned to the ring to save Pierroth, who was then heavily cheered. This starts a Magic/Pierroth feud. Dave: ***; Roy: ** 7/8.

Also on television in Mexico this week was the Wednesday night show from la Arena Coliseo de Guadalajara in Guadalajara, Jalisco. This show is taped on Wednesday nights, put up on satellite with minimal post-production, then airs it as a show called "Nueva Lucha Libre" on Guadalajara's channel six ("Super Seis") on Saturday nights at 6:00 pm local time. I got a chance to see some of the shows this past week and they're really pretty good. The show that took place this past Wednesday, September 30th, featured what was said to be an amazing match between el Dandy and la Bestia Salvaje in the main event. The CMLL World Middleweight Championship held by la Bestia Salvaje was not on the line in this match, so, naturally, el Dandy won two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 14:29. The first fall went 4:41 when Salvaje pinned Dandy after a blind foul. The second fall went 4:08 before el Dandy made Salvaje submit to the old Fuller figure four leg lock. The third fall lasted 5:40 before Dandy managed to block a backdrop attempt and roll Salvaje into *la maestra* (the Dandina cradle) for the pinfall. This was aid to have been an outstanding match, rated at **** 1/2. The other match that aired was a ladies' match, and was only fair. Tecnicas Lady Apache, Atenas, and captain la Super Estrella defeated la Tapatia, Tania la Guerrerilla, and captain Daisy two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 16:40. The finish saw all three rudos disqualified for shoving the referee. This one was rated at ** 1/2. I highly recommend this show's tape to anyone who can get it. One of my favorite bits is a intro/promotional piece that the promotion does, timing high spots to the music of Queen's "Bohemian Rhapsody."

EMLL

RESULTS (continued)

* Sunday, September 27th, 1992, found the EMLL at its largest wholly-owned arena, la Arena Mexico, in the Colonia Doctores section of Mexico City. The opening match saw young tecnicos el Gran Apache I (husband of Lady Apache) and el Guerrero Samurai II (brother of the late Mexican National Lightweight Champion) bating el Escudero Rojo and el Reyes Veloz I two falls to one. The arch-rudo team of el Septiembre Negro junior (he of the ultra-sick gimmick) and el Guerrero de la Muerte defeated el Filoso (whose push has dropped drastically since the AAA/EMLL split) and youngster el Metalico two falls to one. A draw occurred in the third fall, as rudos "Los Gatos" (el Felino, el Fiero, and Lynx) drew el Jalisco, Ciclón Ramirez, and la Aguila Solitaria. In the semifinal, la Mano Negra, who I believe is getting a big final push right before he loses his mask and retires (he is 42), teamed with el Rayo de Jalisco junior and King Haku to defeat M. S. 1, el Hijo del Solitario, and Emilio Charles junior two falls to one. The main event was a non-title match between el Pirata Morgan of los Nuevos Infeemales and Pierroth junior of los Intocables del Ring. Last week, they had set up a singles match, which I thought would be a title match, but they stretched out the feud one more week. Morgan won this week too, in two straight falls, leaving Pierroth bloody and with a ripped mask. Once again, the finish of the match saw Pierroth junior submit cleanly to a boston crab submission hold applied by el Pirata Morgan. So next week, on Sunday, October 4th, 1992, the main event at la Arena Mexico has Pierroth junior defending his CMLL World Light Heavyweight Championship versus el Pirata Morgan.

I have just the main event results from the card the EMLL eld Wednesday, September 23rd, 1992, at la Arena Naucalpan. Los Guerreros del Futuro (el Guerrero Maya - ex Black Terry - , el Guerrero del Futuro - ex-Jose Luis Feliciano - , and Damian, el Guerrero) defeated "Los Spectros" (el Spectro junior, el Spectro de Ultratumba, and el Cadaver de Ultratumba) two falls to one to retain the State of Mexico Trios Championships. That same night, Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense debuted at the tiny la Arena Lopez Mateos, so that arena would not be tempted to begin booking the AAA boys.

I have full results from the EMLL show at Mexico City's la Arena Coliseo on Tuesday, September 22nd, 1992. The opener saw Tor-Ver (legit son of the late referee el Gran Davis (q.e.p.d.)) and el Mestizo defeating el Pegaso and Dick Angelo junior (who uses his real name but wears a mask) two falls to one. The second match found el Septiembre Negro junior and el Guerrero de la Muerte victorious again, as they teamed up to defeat Talisman junior and Kato Kung Lee junior two falls to one. The third match of the evening was a ladies' match, as la Diabolica (del Caribe), Maria del Angel, and captain Tania la Guerrerilla defeated Lady Apache, Xochitl Hamada, and captain la Sirenita two falls to zero, with Tania defeating la Sirenita to end both falls. This sets up a title match next Tuesday (9/29) with la Sirenita defending her Distrito Federal Ladies' Championship versus Tania. In the semifinal, el Brazo de Oro, el Brazo, and el Dandy defeated el Gran Kabuki, Jose "el Negro" Casas, and Sangre Chicana in three falls. And, in the main event, Apolo Dantes made his already EIGHTH successful title defense of the NWA World Light Heavyweight Championship he just won on July 25th, 1992, as Dantes northern-lights-suplexed challenger Jaque Mate (in his first singles title match of any kind ever) in the third fall for the victory. This last match aired in highlights form on the television show that aired in Mexico City on Saturday, September 26th, 1992, at 5:00 pm local time.

And now, a little out of chronological order, here are the results from the television taping of Friday, September 25th, 1992. The opener, off of television, had Lady Apache and Xochitl Hamada face rudas la Diabolica del Caribe and Maria del Angel. To start off the TV show, 2/3 of "los Metalicos," Oro and Plata, defeated 2/3 of "los Gatos," el Fiero and el Felino two falls to one. Plata pinned el Fiero with what correspondent Dave "Keith Jackson is my idol" Scherer called "a sick roll-up." That's a compliment, isn't it, Dave? El Felino pinned Oro with a sunset flip from off of the top rope to end the second fall. Oro then got revenge, pinning both el Fiero and then el Felino to win the third fall and the match. This sets up Oro to challenge el Felino for the latter's CMLL World Welterweight Championship (in fact, they had the first of those title matches on Sunday, September 27th, 1992, at la Arena Naucalpan, which I believe was an el Felino victory). Dave rated this match at ***. Hector Guerrero debuted his Lazertron gimmick in Mexico in the next match. He teamed with his brother Eddy (as la Mascara Magica) and The Blue Demon junior in victory; they won two out of three falls from Emilio Charles junior, la Fiera, and la Bestia Salvaje. Lazertron pinned Charles to end the first fall with the Kenta Kobashi-style rolling cradle. La Fiera pinned Demon in the second fall with a shoulder breaker. The third fall went to Magica, as he nailed Salvaje with an "Air Pillman," but with a drop kick, not a lariet, as the off the top rope move. No signs of this yet, but I suspect that Lazertron is in to take the mask of la Mascara Magica down the road (like around 12/9/92). Also rated at ***. In the semifinal, The Great Kabuki finally got a Mexico victory. He teamed with el Satanico and el Supremo I to defeat Atlantis, el Dandy, and la Mano Negra two falls to one. Atlantis submitted to Kabuki's boston crab in the first fall but pinned Kabuki with *la quebradora* in the second fall. El Supremo won the third fall and the match for his team by pinning la Mano Negra, thus setting up the almost-certain mask match (which the magazines are pushing like crazy) for pretty soon down the road. Rated at **. I have to figure el Supremo I will take la Mano Negra's mask if that mask match comes off (no pun intended).

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RESULTS (continued)

Finally, the main event found the tecnico trio of King Haku, Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon, and Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense losers in three falls over The Black Magic, Jose "el Negro" Casas, and el Pirata Morgan. The Black Magic came out early, caught Vampiro on his way to the ring, and piledrove him, stretchered Vampiro out of the match. Everyone looked to the back to see who would take Vampiro's place, and as was well-done on television, to the incredulity of the announcers, it was announced that arch-rudo PIERROTH JUNIOR would take Vampiro's place. Well, all three rudos attacked Pierroth as he approached the ring and continued to pound him mercilessly for the duration of the first fall until Pierroth finally surrendered. Haku came back with a power bomb on el Pirata Morgan to win the second fall and one of The Black Magic to win the third fall apparently, but Magic was not the captain for his team, while Pierroth had taken over Vampiro's captain slot for the tecnicos and when Pierroth was power-slammed by Morgan, he lost the fall for his side. After the match, all the rudos turned on Pierroth again and left him lying. Rated by Dave Scherer at *** 1/2. This begins several feuds and also began Pierroth's face turn.

Just couple of main event results next from the last two weeks. First, Ciclon Ramirez lost the Mexican National Welterweight Championship to the man whom he had defeated in the tournament final in August to regain that title. The new champion is el Fantasma de la Quebrada, a veteran from the Acapulco circuit. And, Acapulco's la Arena Coliseo was the arena at which the title changed, and the date was Wednesday, September 30th, 1992. This was a major surprise to me; combined with the fact that the EMLL in Guadalajara set up a Ciclon Ramirez versus Ciclon Mackey mask versus mask match for over a month then dropped it after announcing the match led me to suspect that Ramirez will be jumping to the AAA any day now. That's just a hunch, but..

One night earlier, the EMLL promoted its usual Tuesday night card at la Arena Coliseo. I don't have full results yet, but I know that in the first match, young wrestler Kundra broke his collarbone legit on a dive out of the ring and had to be hospitalized and is expected to miss several months of action. In the third match, la Sirenita defeated la Diabolica del Caribe two falls to one to retain her Mexican National Ladies' Championship. And, in the main event, los Mosqueteros del Diablo, los Brazos (el Brazo de Plata, el Brazo, and captain el Brazo de Oro) defeated ex-CMLL World Trios Champions los Intocables del Ring (Jaque Mate, Pierroth junior, and captain Masakre) two falls to one when el Brazo de Plata pinned Masakre with a falling splash *a la* Martha Villalobos. Roy "I grade highlights" Lucier said this match, which aired in highlights-only form on the 10/3 television show in Mexico City, looked to be about ***.

Back to descending chronological order now. I have many results from the big weekend (well, from Wednesday, September 16th to Sunday, September 20th) that the EMLL used to celebrate its 59th anniversary. At Mexico City's la Arena Coliseo on Sunday, September 20th, the main event was a CMLL World Middleweight Championship match. Champion la Bestia Salvaje (Juan Manuel Carillo Rodriguez) defeated The Love Machine (Arthur James Barr) two falls to one to retain the title in what I suspect was an outstanding match. Also on that Sunday in Mexico City, as I reported last time, los Nuevos Infernales defeated los Intocables del Ring at la Arena Mexico to win the CMLL World Trios Championships two falls to one to even up el Satnico for dropping his hair two nights earlier.

Also on that Sunday, and also in Mexico City, and also at 5:00 pm local time, the EMLL promoted a big show at la Pista Arena Revolcuon. The main event here was a *mascara contra mascara* match between la Sombra Poblana and rudo el Halcon Negro junior. I had thought that both of these wrestlers were youngsters but it was revealed at least that the loser was more of a veteran than I had thought. El Halcon negro junior won the mask with the aid of his fellow rudo, heel referee el Gato Montini, winning the third fall with a quick count on a sunset flip. La Sombra Poblana unmasked, revealing himself to be Juan Eladio Flores Cruz, who had debuted in 1980. The match was said to have been pretty good and was definitely very bloody. In the semifinal, Triton, la Mano Negra, and Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon defeated rudos Titan, Ulises Plus, and el Medico Asesino junior two falls to one. Rudos el Hijo del Gladiador, el Septiembre Negro junior, and el Cadaver de Ultratumba won two out of three falls in the third match from el Trueno, el Halcon, and la Aguila de Plata. El Moro and el Gran Apache I emerged victorious in the second match, taking two of three from el Bello Incognito and Panico. To start things out, Olimpico and el Olimpico beat el Rey Bucanero (younger brother of el Pirata Morgan, Troglodita, and Cro Magnon) and el Acma in three falls.

Just results from the top two matches at la Arena Puebla in Puebla de los Angeles, Pubela, on Saturday, September 19th, 1992. In the main event, Pierroth junior successfully defended his CMLL World Light Heavyweight Championship by defeating M. S. 1 two falls to one. The finish of the third fall saw Pierroth use a *la de a caballo* hold to make M. S. 1 submit. This was reported to be a really good match. In the semifinal, Jaque Mate, Masakre, and Emilio Charles junior won two out of three falls from el Rayo de Jalisco junior, Atlantis, and Apolo Dantes in what was said to have been an excellent match. Notice how Pierroth junior wins all his title matches but then drops the deciding fall in each of the tag-team matches that he wrestles in? You can see how the bookers try to balance things out, balancing one big win versus one big loss, a title win versus a hair loss, and so on. That way, no one wrestler becomes bigger than the promotion, nor becomes too big for his britches.

EMLL

RESULTS (Continued)

The EMLL also ran a big show at la Pista Arena Revolucion in Mexico City on Saturday, September 19th, 1992. This turned out to be the largest contingent of Japanese wrestlers on one show on this current tour. I have results of three of the five matches; these were the three that were covered in the Japanese magazines. Oddly enough, none of the three Mexican magazines I saw covered this card at all! The main event was supposed to feature the WAR promotion's Genichiro Tenryu, but he deliberately no-showed. In the end, The Blue Demon junior (Luis Rabadan junior), Saigon, Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon (Yoshihiro Asai), and captain King Haku (Uliuli Fifita) defeated Titan (?), Ulises Plus (Tony Salazar), and captain The Great Kabuki (Merido Yoshida) two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 17:02. Dragon pinned Ulises with "The Monkey Magice Special" at 6:19 of fall one; Kabuki pinned Demon with the choke claw at 5:13 of fall two; and Haku pinned Kabuki at 5:30 with the power bomb of the final fall. In one ladies' match, Aja Kong, Kyoko Inoue, and captain la Diabolica del Caribe defeated Lady Apache, Neftali, and la Sirenita in two straight falls in 13:39. I don't have the final moves, but I know Kong pinned Lady Apache at 8:13 of fall one while Inoue pinned la Sirenita at 5:26 of fall two. In the other ladies' match, Manami Toyota and Toshiyo Yamada won two out of three falls from Maria del Angel and Tania la Guerrerilla in a total elapsed time of 13:45. Yamada pinned Maria del Angel at 5:12 of fall one with the german suplex hold; Tania actually pinned Yamada at 3:37 of fall two; and Yamada won the third fall and the match as she pinned Maria del Angel at the 4:54 mark after both Yamada and Toyota nailed Angel with simultaneous diving head butts (from off of the top rope) from opposite corners of the ring.

Just one result from a card held Wednesday, September 16th, 1992, at Morelia, Michoacan featured a main event that the magazines JUST RAVED ABOUT. Atlantis, el Rayo de Jalisco junior, and The Blue Demon junior faced Nitron, el Felino, and la Bestia Salvaje. I don't even have a result but the reports portrayed this like a match of the year candidate for sure. I know, Nitron doesn't exactly belong with these five, but this is what I read.

That same night at la Arena Coliseo de Acapulco in Acapulco, Guerrero, the EMLL tried to put on a little bigger card than normal to try and "burn out the town" just two days before the big AAA television taping show. In the main event, Pierroth junior defeated The Love Machine two falls to one to retain the CMLL World Light Heavyweight Championship. So the Love Machine lost a Middleweight and a Light Heavyweight title match within four days! The semifinal was a *caballero contra caballero* match in which Javier "el Monarca" Cruz defeated Javier "el CHmaco" Ayala two falls to one in a bloody battle. Ciclón Ramirez, Oro, and Triton (jeez, a whole trio team without an "el" or a "la" in front of their ring names!) defeated Lynx, America, and el Fantasma de la Quebrada (oh well, five out of six ain't bad) two falls to one. The second match went to Ludwig Star and el Centauro over el Mogambo and el Guerrero in three falls, while the opener was won by el Rudo, as el defeated el Gran Anfibus two falls to one.

The traditional Tuesday night card at Mexico City's la Arena Coliseo on September 15th, 1992, featured a main event in which Masakre, Sangre Chicana, and captain Jaque Mate defeated el Dandy, el Rayo de Jalisco junior, and captain Apolo Dantes two falls to one. Dantes pinned Mate with the power bomb to end the first fall, but then Mate scored two straight submission victories in falls two and three, the first with the ground abdominal stretch and the second with the figure four leg lock. This helped set up the later Dantes/Mate title match. The semifinal went to los Nuevos Infeles (el Satanico, el Pirata Morgn, and captain M. S. 1) as they defeated las Cavernicolas I, II, y III (Popitekus, Troglodita, and Cro Magnon) two falls to one in an all-rudo battle.

Two days earlier (9/13/92) at that same la Arena Coliseo, The Love Machine, The Blue Demon junior, and el Jalisco had defeated la Bestia Salvaje (who bled buckets), el Supremo I, and el Titan two falls to one when Machine pinned Salvaje clean in the middle to set up their CMLL title match the next Sunday.

One day earlier than that (9/12/92), the EMLL held its traditional Saturday night card at la Pista Arena Revolucion. The main event featured a tecnico victory for Apolo Dantes, el Rayo de Jalisco junior, and The Blue Demon junior, as they won two out of three falls from Javier "el Monarca" Cruz, Nitron, and el Hijo del "Dave Scherer is my idol" Solitario. In the semifinal, the State of Mexico Trios Champions los Guerreros del Futuro (el Guerrero Maya, el Guerrero del Futuro, and Damian, el Guerrero) defeated Kato Kung Lee padre, Triton, and la Aguila Solitaria two falls to one in a non-title match. Juan "el Huracan" Sevilla teamed with el Moro and la Sombra Poblana to defeat el Halcon Negro junior, el Guerrero de la Muerte, and el Septiembre Negro junior two falls to one in the ~~tercera~~ *tercera*. The heat was all between Halcon and Poblana and Negro even cost his team the disqualification via his unmasking of Poblana in the third fall. El Vencedor and el Gran Apache I emerged victorious in the second match, winning two out of three falls from el Reyes Veloz I and Babe Richard. To start things out, Selene and Ana Moreno (the younger sister of Rossy, Esther, and Cynthia Moreno) defeated Annie and la India Azteca two falls to one.

And here are the results from the Wednesday night card at la Arena Coliseo de Acapulco in Acapulco, Guerrero for September 9th, 1992. El Proyeccion 2000 defeated el Vertigo in the opener in three falls. In the *segunda*, el Serpion took two of three from el Llanero Negro. Babe Richard and Master lost two of three to el Ejecuto and la

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RESULTS (continued)

Rafaga Azul. More familiar names took the spotlight in the final two matches. Oro teamed with Javier "el CHamaco" Ayala and Javier "el CHamaco" Valaguez to defeat Javier "el Monarca" Cruz, America, and Emilio CHarles junior two falls to one when Cruz fouled Ayala in the third fall to set up the next week's hair match. Finally, in the main event, The Love Machine, The Black Magic (still a tecnico back then), and el Rayo de Jalisco junior defeated los Intocables del Ring {then-CMLL World Trios Champions in a non-title match} (Pierroth junior, Masakre, and Jaque Mate) two falls to one when Machine made Pierroth junior submit to the *el rudo* submission hold to set up their next week's title tilt.

The last EMLL result I want to go over in this issue is coverage of the traditionally largest show of the year in all of luch libre -- the EMLL's 59th anniversary show. Thanks to the gentle Greg Goode I got a chance to see the show as it aired in Mexico City. Here, briefly, is my review. First, in the match that was off of television, los Gtos (el Felino, el Fiero, and Lynx) drew in the third fall with el Trio Metalico (Oro, Plata, and Bronce) in a total elapsed time of 12:44: Oro pinned el Felino at 3:24 of the first fall but was pinned by el Felino at 5:07 of round two. They went to a double pin at 4:13 of the third fall. Now on to what I saw on television. Aja Kong and Kyoko Inoue defeated Xochitl Hamada and Kaoru Maeda two falls to one in a total elapsed time of 18:31. The first fall ended when Maeda did a diving body press from off of the top rope onto both Kong and Inoue (this came off far better than it sounds on paper) at the 6:18 mark. At 7:49 of fall two, Kong pinned both Hamada and Maeda with a diving body press from off of the second rope -- also nicely done. The third fall ended at 4:24 when Kong pinned Maeda and Inoue pinned Hamada with simultaneous superplexes from off of the second rope in opposite ring corners. Overall, this match seemed much better to me than I had earlier been told, or I guess I just liked it better. I gave it *** 1/4.

Next up came the Vampiro match. Here, Saigon Dragon, el Ultimo Dragon, The Love Machine, and captain Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense defeated Jose "el Negro" Casas, The Black Magic, and captain el Pirata Morgan in two straight falls in 13:15. The first fall ended in 6:02 as everyone was counted out of the ring except Dragon and Casas, and Dragon pinned Casas with the german suplex hold (he couldn't quite continue and roll over into "The Monkey Magic Special" in time. The second fall lasted 7:13 until all three rudos were disqualified for continually mercilessly attacking Vampiro without going for the pinfall and ignoring the referees' warnings to stop the three-on-one. As brawls go, I liked this a lot. Not so bad as I had feared. ***.

The semifinal (or was it the main event?) went to Atlantis, el Rayo de Jalisco junior, and captain King Haku, as they won two out of three falls in a total elapsed time of 13:05 from rudos la Fiera (substituting for Genichiro Tenryu), The Great Kabuki, and captain Pierroth junior. The first fall lasted only 4:24 when el Rayo de Jalisco junior pinned la Fiera with *el tope en reversa* (the jumping backwards head butt) from off of the second rope. King Haku got a big pop from the fans but also a disqualification for fouling la Fiera at the 4:55 mark of fall two (actually, The Great Kabuki at this time also snuck back in the ring to beat Vampiro back in via count out of the ring). Then, in the third fall, King Haku pinned Pierroth junior clean as a sheet in the middle of the ring with the "drill-a-hole" piledriver. Once again I was highly impressed -- plus, I didn't think King Haku worked so stiff after all. *** 1/4 here too.

Well so far I'm thinking that this isn't the horror story of a card that I had been expecting. (Actually it was from a promotional standpoint because the promotion gave fans nothing they haven't already seen before at least twice.) But work rate wise, this was pretty good. Then came the main event; this was the match I was expecting to be the best on the show and by then end of the match, all in all, I thought it was the worst (just barely). I still gave it *** but I expected more out of these two. El Dandy defeated el Satanico, officially, two falls to one in what turned out to be a total elapsed time of 16:49 in a *caballero contra caballero* match -- their third one since 12/14/90. The first fall went to el Dandy as he pinned el Satanico in 6:40 with the Dandy Clutch (a figure four leg lock with a back bridge). The second fall went, of course, to el Satanico in 2:20, as he used a slide off of the Gori Especial backbreaker. The third fall saw el Dandy put el Satanico into *la tapatis* (the upside down surfboard), when el Satanico bridged back and "with the aid of the ropes" bridged up while el Dandy was pinned at 7:36. Immediately el Dandy's second Atlantis and a commissioner got involved and told senior EMLL referee Roberto "el Guero" Rangel that el Satanico had cheated to get the pinfall victory, and that the match should be re-started. El Satanico and his second el Pirata Morgan protested, claiming that Rangel could only call what he as referee had seen, and that a referee's decision must be final. Finally, after a couple of minutes of discussion, Rangel ordered the match re-started. It did not take long. El Dandy delivered two clotheslines to el Satanico's chest and then one to the back of el Satanico's head, knocking el Satanico down onto his (el Satanico's) table. From there, it was easy for el Dandy to apply *la magistra* ("The Dandina Cradle") to el Satanico. The referee counted (as did the fans) *una, dos, tres*, and after only thirteen seconds since the re-start, el Dandy had emerged the true victor. Immediately, television went to a commercial, and came back for a brief moment to see a clip of official EMLL barber Pancho Penzaloea doing his duty on el Satanico. As I hinted above, I was disappointed in this match. Both men tried hard enough but I really thought that it lacked a certain spark all the way through as if they were demoralized by the poor crowd or smaller payoff that thus resulted.

UWA

RESULTS

Since I went to press late this week, I actually will have all the results and stuff in their proper section. There will not be a late news section this week. Therefore, I have the results from the traditional UWA card held Sunday, October 4th, 1992, at the "el Toreo de Cuatro Caminos bull ring" in suburban Naucalpan. The initial match of the evening saw that renowned restaurant-owning rudo The Baby Face I team up with Rey Richard (ex-Zeus) and el Rudo to defeat tecnicos Lasser, Rocky Santana, and el Gran Apache I two falls to one. The second match went to tecnicos The King (not Elvis Presley), el Coloso, and el Celestial as they won two out of three falls from los Crazy Stars I y II and el Engendro. The still-UWA World Trios Champions los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (el Signo, The Black Power II, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro) lost a non-title match to the odd team of rudo The Doctor Wagner junior and babyface tecnico opening-card brothers los Rayos Tapatios I and II (who are good but have never been pushed at near this level before); the finish saw el Signo disqualified in the third fall for unmasking Wagner. The semifinal went to Scorpio father, Scorpio son, and el Bufalo Allen (aka Bad News Allen), as they won two straight falls from The Black Scorpio, Enrique Vera father, and el Villano III. After the match, the masked Black Scorpio challenged both father and son Scorpio to a hair and mask match, respectively. They may yet run the scenario I typed up below. The main event saw los Hermanos Rodriguez (Dos Caras and Mil Mascaras) win two out of three falls from Canek and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow), when, in yet one more lack of original booking, The Killer did the job in both the second and third falls.

I do have the main event result from the card held Monday, September 26th, 1992, at la Arena Puebla in Puebla de los Angeles, Puebla. It continued one of the min UWA storylines these days. Los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte defeated los Cowboys/Efectivos (Silver King and el Texano) and their partner el Villano I when los Cowboys turned on el Villano I and left him laying.

Now, on to the el Toreo card of Sunday, September 27th, 1992. The first match saw a draw in the third fall between rudos la Ola Lila (Rudy "Perfumado" Reyna, May Flowers, and Pimpinela Escarlata) and the also-rudo team of el Rudo and his partners los Espantos IV and V. This was the last el Toreo appearance for los Exoticos before their-supposed AAA debut on Friday, October 2nd, 1992. The second match on the card saw a non-tite victory for UWA World Trios Champions los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (The Black Power II, el Signo, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro), as they defeated fellow rudos The Baby Face I, Kahos I, and The Crazy Star I. Los Misioneros were said to have gotten by far the best crowd reaction among the opening four heel trios. In the middle match of the five match card, Dos Caras, Enrique Vera senior, and el Villano III defeated The Doctor Wagner junior, el Loco Zandokan, and The Killer (managed by Andy Barrow) two falls to one in what was described as the best match on the show. An angle in the semifinal began a feud. There, Scorpions father and son teamed with Shu, el Guerrero to defeat The Black Scorpio (Charles Skaggs, aka The Flying Scorpio in Japan), el Baron, and el Villano V two falls to one. The feud was begun between el Scorpio senior and The Black Scorpio. It's just a thought, but I can see Scorpio senior dropping his hair to The Black Scorpio, then Scorpio junior wins the mask of Skaggs to avenge his father. It's just another thought but I bet that's more creativity than the UWA even has. El Baron, a young flyer, was said to have looked the best in this match. The main event found Canek defeating P. N. News two falls to one to retaining his UWA World Heavyweight Championship in a fair match that lasted about eighteen minutes. The first fall went to Canek in 5:00 as he pinned News with, apparently, a regular old body slam. The second fall lasted 3:00 before News went to the top rope in the corner and tried a missile kick (a drop kick from off of the top rope). News didn't twist his body sideways and couldn't get both feet up and it ended up looking like a Barbarian foot to the face from off of the top rope. Hey, that took a lot of guts to try that move at 450 pounds. After this move, News splashed Canek for the second fall pin. Canek took the third fall in about 10:00 with a drop kick/senton (backward diving splash) combination. This was said to have been wrestled cleanly and was all right.

The UWA also promoted a small card on Sunday, September 20th, 1992, at la Arena San Jaun Partitlan in Partitlan, Mexico, right outside Mexico City. In the main event, el Coralillo (who had a great September, see below) defeated el Indio Negro two falls to one in a mask versus mask match. El Indio Negro was revealed to be Fernando Medina, who debuted 10 years ago. In the semifinal, the four "Exoticos" (Rudy "Perfumado" Reyna, Pimpinela Escarlata, May Flowers, and Casandro) teamed up to defeat los Dinamicos I and II, el Soberbio I, and el Stelaris in three falls. El Soberbio II teamed with el Tigre Solitario to defeat Mexican National Cruiserweight Champion Rock and el Anegri Negro two falls to one. The second match went to The Black Birds I and II, as they defeated el Tauro de Creta and el CHamaco Guerrero two falls to one. And in the opener, in three falls, el Hijo del Sol and el Elegante Guerrero beat el Delito and el Espiritu Guerrero.

Television cameras were present at the card at la Arena Netzahualcoyotl in the Mexico City suburb of the same name on Friday, August 26th, 1992; the show aired Saturday, October 3rd on Imevision (channel 13 in Mexico City). Three of the five matches aired. First, el Coloso and el Celestial defeated el Engendro and Kahos I two falls to one

***UWA* (continued)**

RESULTS (continued)

in a total elapsed time of 19:29. The finish of the third fall saw el Coloso pin Kahos I with the reverse diving head butt (*el tope en reversa*). This was a fair match, albeit a bit long, and correspondent Roy Lucier gave it ** 1/4. The second of the three matches that aired featured UWA World Trios Champions los Nuevos Misioneros de la Muerte (el Signo, The Black Power II - aka "Bob" on Sesame Street -, and Miguel "el Negro" Navarro) as they lost two out of three falls from el Villano IV, el Villano V, and el Tigre Californiense in a total elapsed time of 1:43. The finish saw el Villano IV pin Bob with *la huitacattana*. Good thing for los Misioneros that this was a non-title match, huh? Rated at * 3/4. The main event had the creative ending when The Doctor Wagner junior, el Loco Zandokan, and Miguelito Perez junior won two out of three falls from The Pegasus Kid, el Villano III, and Enrique Vera senior in a total elapsed time of 12:05. The finish saw The Pegasus Kid inadvertently unmask his own partner - el Villano III - and head UWA referee el Fresero called for a disqualification against The Pegasus Kid, which therefore cost el Villano III the match as well. The match itself was rated at ** 3/4, but I love that finish.

The final result is from la Arena Ecatepec in Ecatepec, Mexico, from Tuesday, September 8th, 1992. The main event was el Coralillo's first-ever defense of the UWA World Featherweight Championship which he had won two weeks prior in a match against The Bird Boy I. El Coralillo made his defense a successful one, as he defeated el Suspenso two falls to one. The finish of the match was the *la tapatia* (upside-down surfboard) submission hold. In the semifinal, el Hijo de Huracan Ramirez and el Nuevo Huracan Ramirez junior defeated Miguel "el Negro" Navarro and Rokambole (the legit wrestling physician) in three falls. As you might guess, Rokambole did the job in the third fall. The second match went to Canek's younger brother, el Principe Maya, and his partner el Mortero junior; they defeated el Hombre de Fuego and Korak two falls to one. In the opener, Pompeya and el Pequeno Gigante defeated el Pesadila and el Gran Kardo in three falls.

NEWS

* Just a few items here. **Box y Lucha** is crowning its second annual lucha libre queen on Monday, December 14th, 1992, and most of the candidates are being "presented" in UWA functions around the horn to let fans vote. Fans are also voting in year-end magazine awards at the same time.

* The UWA announced that is debuting a new masked wrestler called "el Torre Infernal," who is said to weight over 300 pounds and be over seven feet tall. The only three active wrestlers who fit that category are el Gigante, Blade Butch Master, and The Canadian Giant. Since this new wrestler is being booked by Victor Quinones from Puerto Rico, and Masters (aka el Gigante Warrior) lives in San Juan, that's who I suspect it is.

* Several UWA wrestlers - Transformer, Razama, and el Rayo Tapatio II - plus referee el Fresero were injured during a fight that ensued during a literal highway robbery, as along the road leading out from Guanajuato, Guanajuato, toward Mexico City was blocked by armed bandits who held up the bus on which the wrestlers and many other people were traveling. The papers reported that no one - wrestlers or non-wrestlers - were seriously injured; they missed no cards. This is an amazing country, isn't it?

* The UWA announced again that it will hold a tournament for the vacant UWA World Junior Light Heavyweight Championship; this time the tournament is said to be being held in November at el Toreo.

* The UWA will hold two cards to celebrate the 15th anniversary of wrestling at the el Toreo bull ring on 10/18 and 10/25; the actual debut at that bull ring was 10/20/1977. The first UWA card ever was 1/16/1975 at el Palacio de los Deportes, the arena that the AAA is trying to get booked for 11/21/92.

* Shu, el Guerrero, the UWA World Junior Heavyweight Champion, challenged Canek for Canek's UWA World Heavyweight Championship. I expect that mitch to take place, but Shu doesn't have a snowball's chance.

* The UWA and its SNL union won the right after some negotiation to promote exclusively (i. e., no AAA cards) at a small Mexico City arena called "la Arena Aragon." The SNL continues its boycott of the five arenas that Raul Reyes promotes - la Arena Azteca, la Arena Azteca, la Arena Xochimilco, el Deportivo Plan Sexanal, and el Gimnasio G-2.

* The four lady wrestlers who have been touring regularly for this office - la Mujer Salvaje, la Satanakia, and las Irmas (Irma Aguilar and Irma Gonzales) - took two weeks off and are now running their match around the horn again.

* El Villano IV has still been held out of all cards since his "injury," but has been interviewed in the newspapers and magazines, vowing his revenge upon los Cowboys/Efectivos (Silver King and el Texano).

* Fray Tormenta, the wrestling priest, got a super write-up in **Peligro** magazine. He said that he was, in reality, age 47; that he became a preist at age 27; and that he debuted as a wrestler in 1975 at age 31. Los Cowboys have gotten a lot of play in many magazines and papers lately, including the center spread in a recent **Titanes del Ring**.

MINI-BIOGRAPHY: EL PIRATA MORGAN

El Pirata Morgan, Pedro Ortiz Villanueva, was born on July 29th, 1962, in one of the largest suburbs in the world, the city of Netzahualcoyotl in the state of Mexico (current population over 2,000,000) just outside Mexico City. Even at an early age, like so many of today's luchadores, he was enthralled with the spectacle known as lucha libre; and, like so many more of today's luchadores, his older brothers had already begun to train to be wrestlers. The oldest Ortiz brother, Francisco "CHamaco" Ortiz, had already debuted in lucha libre as a pirate act called "el Hombre Bala" when the next oldest brother debuted, also as a pirate, in 1979 called "el Verdugo." Morgan showed real skill as a trainee from his earliest training sessions. Therefore, his brothers took him on the road at age 17. After a few months of setting up the rings, etc., and training from time to time with the wrestlers on the road, Morgan debuted – under his real name – in the garden city of Cuernavaca, Morelos, about 50 miles west of Mexico City, in October 1979. Within two years, it had become obvious that Morgan, much smaller than his two brothers, was also a much better athlete, and Morgan got promoted to the top of the cards he was working on by 1981 even as a middleweight. In the fall of 1981 and the winter of 1982, two things happened to radically change Morgan's career direction. In September 1981, Morgan lost his right eye in a match. Morgan had been dropkicked outside of the ring by his opponent and was facing the fans, standing up, with his back to the ring. The opponent, and I do not know who this was, did a dive through the second and third ropes and caught Morgan in a bulldog and tried to execute a flying bulldog and drive Morgan's head into the arena floor or onto a first-row chair. The fans had seen the move that was coming and had vacated the front row of chairs. Well, Morgan was bulldogged onto a front row chair. Unfortunately, a nail or screw was penetrating from an exposed portion of that assembly and Morgan's right eye was driven right into that object. The eye was instantly mutilated and surgery was performed that night for cosmetic purposes. Not too long thereafter, the idea to join his rudo brothers in a pirate gimmick presented itself and was accepted. El Pirata Morgan was "born" in 1982 as the culmination of a rudo turn by Ortiz. Morgan, however, was the only one of his three wrestling family who really didn't seem to mind travel, and he was more often featured as a single than as part of a family trio. On August 7th, 1983, Morgan defeated el Halcon (Danny Ortiz, no relation), who now wrestles for the AAA as Super Halcon, at la Arena Coliseo de Guadalajara in Guadalajara, Jalisco, to win the Mexican National Heavyweight Championship. While still champion, Morgan was booked by the EMLL office in Mexico City and was put together by the office with wrestlers el Satanico and M. S. 1 as the original incarnation of "Los Infernales del Ring." From the days of tag-teams such as el Santo and Gori Guerrero, tag-team in Mexico had been mostly two members a side. Now in the 1980's, after noticing the success of the Japanese in highlighting feuds in six-man tags, lucha libre offices were busy creating new trio characters and teams in what became one of the most significant changes in lucha libre in all of the 1980's. "Los Infernales" were one of the very first incarnations of this growing trend. Morgan dropped the National Heavyweight Championship on January 8th, 1984 at la Arena Coliseo to el Rayo de Jalisco junior. In March of 1985, los Infernales won the Mexican National Trios Championships. He stayed with los Infernales for a few years but in 1986, for what I believe was no other reason than to help his brothers get over, Morgan joined with Bala and Verdugo to form "Los Bucaneros del Ring." Though I do not have a date, I do know that as a trio they also won the National Trios Championships, but never caught fire the way that "los Infernales" had. Morgan has always been looked upon as an MVP by the EMLL office, as he has been involved in more hair matches at big shows in the last five years than almost any other wrestler – and it was he who got the call to feud with Casanova, el Vampiro Canadiense and drop his hair to Vampiro on July 17th, 1992. But to many fans, it's as a member of los Infernales that Morgan will remain. After the original trio re-formed in October of 1991, they went on to win the initial CMLL World Trios Championships, defeating los Brazos at la Arena Mexico on November 22nd, 1991. They have since lost and won those titles back, the last time just regaining the straps on September 20th, 1992, at la Arena Mexico. And despite their best efforts, the AAA has been completely unable to convince Morgan to jump to the AAA – so unable that the AAA even let go its "el Piratita Morgan" midget character rights as it assumed it would never get the big guy himself. And so Morgan remains in the shrinking EMLL, almost a picture of all that's right with Mexico's oldest office.

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